



Next Issue:
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Ask SSG

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November - December 2009



Herbert Hatanaka, DSW

2009

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hi everyone and Happy Holidays. Thanks for your dedication and commitment to the agency and the thousands of people we have served this past year. As we approach the holidays we seem to naturally reflect on the highs and lows of the past year.

I remember quite vividly that we were facing very challenging economic times and a budget crisis for our programs last year at this time. For our clients and communities we were seeing a dramatic rise in suffering related to the economy. While those challenging times are not yet behind us I am very proud to say that the people of SSG again rose to the challenge. We close the year having served more people with more services than we ever have in our 27 year history. 15,000 people were served by SSG programs in the past year. In spite of fewer resources we have responded to the plight of our community members with concrete services such as food, clothing and housing, provided therapy and wellness center activities to children, youth, families, adults and older adults needing support in their recovery, developed employment opportunities and taught our youth and re-entering adults how to successfully live independently outside of institutions, provided access to high quality healthcare and continued to stress the educational achievement of our children and youth through many tutoring and enrichment programs. While our accomplishments go on I believe that it is our tremendous empathy and compassion for our clients and communities that is our hallmark at SSG. It is our unwavering personal regard for the human experience of our clients and communities that drives us to alleviate their human suffering and we do so because we relate to their human experience. Many of us have been there and all of us realize that we are not immune to trying times and human suffering. Twists of fate and coincidence could easily have us switching places with our clients.

At the end of every day and now at the end of 2009, I am grateful to be a part of an organization that responds to human need with such compassion and dedication. I am honored to be your colleague. I hope that as you celebrate the upcoming holidays with family and friends that you will do so feeling proud and accomplished that throughout the year you have made life that much better for so many others. You have truly practiced the holiday "spirit" this entire year. Happy Holidays and all the best for 2010!

Special Thanks

SSG wishes to thank **Steve Lee** of **Steele Industries** for his generous donation to the annual **Holiday Toy Drive**; over 1,500 children received toys across SSG programs.

The children of 3 SSG projects (Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program, Parent Neighborhood Youth Program and Homeless Women & Children's Project) wish to thank the **LA City Fire Department, Spark of Love** for the toys they received at their holiday parties.

PARENTS NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PROGRAM Holiday Party



SSG's WINTER WEATHER DRIVE

Please Donate by January 22nd

**BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS
COATS, HATS, ETC.**

(NEW OR CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION)

Drop off donations at SSG, Ste. 740,
enter and 3rd door to your left (look for sign)

Donations will be distributed to those who are homeless
within SSG Programs.

Contact: Jennifer Atchison, 213-553-1819
jatchison@ssgmain.org

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - AVALON FAMILY CENTER

Client Success Story

A year ago, "RN" was actively involved in drugs and gangs and knew that the lifestyle he was living was not going to take him anywhere. Once introduced to our program he did not hesitate to enroll and start receiving counseling services. Throughout the course of the past year, RN has shown great progress in many areas of his life. He is no longer affiliated with gangs or drugs and is more committed to his family and school. In June 2010, RN will be the first in his family to graduate from high school and he has plans to continue his education beyond high school. With a bright future ahead of him RN expresses his thanks for the opportunities and support

Holiday Happenings!

The Harvest Festival was celebrated by 150 guests. There were games, pumpkin carving, food and fun!



Veteran's Day Celebration
Representatives from different branches of the U.S. Armed Forces came to talk to clients about what it means to be a member of the U.S. military.



BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

Fair Housing Rights Training

On December 29, 2009 Carey Stone, a Staff Attorney for Mental Health Advocacy Services was at the BACUP LIFE CENTER. A specialist in fair housing issues, she provided training on the reality and myths of fair housing practices. Twenty mental health consumers attended and they now have the knowledge on how they can advocate when faced with problems in their living situations.



3rd Annual 'Bringing in the New Year' 2010 Celebration

When: Saturday, January 16th
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Where: BACUP/LIFE Center
2120 W. 8th St. Ste. 210,
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Who: BACUP Participants, Families,
Friends, Supporters and Providers



RSVP: Andrew Posner, Program Director
213-368-1888 Ext. 12

SSG Providers Participate in Mental Health Policy Discussion

SSG mental health providers serving Asian and Pacific Islander communities were well represented at the November 18, 2009 Legislative Town Hall and Call to Action on 'The State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Mental Health in California' held at USC's Norris Research Tower. The Town Hall was hosted by Assemblymember Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) who had earlier released "The State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Health in California" report, which details the studies and findings by the University of California Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Multi-Campus Research Program. The report shows that some AANHPI ethnic groups are at higher risks of some illnesses compared to the rest of the population; while other AANHPI subgroups have been rarely studied - if at all. The full report can be downloaded at: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a49/>.

For the Town Hall, Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka (who is also the Committee Chair for the A3PCON Mental Health Committee) provided assistance to Mike Eng and his office to ensure broad representation from the overall service provider network. Dr. Hatanaka, Dr. Trang Hoang (API Alliance) and Dr. Chong Suh (APCTC) were speakers. Other SSG Providers that provided input and expertise included AP Residential Program, Older Adults Program, and the Tongan Community Service Center. Mrs. Young Moon, President of the National Alliance of Mentally Ill/Asian Pacific-LA was also a presenter.



Herbert Hatanaka at podium.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - SAN FRANCISCO

We are pleased to announce the completion of our redesign project! Over a year ago, OTTP submitted a proposal to Philanthropy By Design (PBD), an organization whose mission is to transform nonprofit environments through design. PBD is a volunteer network of design industry professionals who renovate interior environments of CBOs by creatively reusing furniture that is donated, and utilize interior design skills to transform offices. Jolene Enns of K2A ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS was the lead designer and volunteer coordinator for the OTTP project. OTTP's main goal for the project was to redesign newly acquired office space to make it comfortable, functional, and ergonomic. Through a concerted effort of OTTP staff members, PBD board members, and community volunteers, the space was renovated and completely altered. OTTP has obtained four new work stations, a small therapy room, a reception area, and a small kitchen. The walls have all been painted, new carpet has been put in, and new counters and shelves have been installed. Staff and OTTP clients alike have commented on the overall improvement of our office space. As one youth put it "The OTTP office is warm and inviting, and I like coming here!"



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

David Howard, Research Analyst, recently presented a report he co-authored at the "State of the Nonprofit Sector in Los Angeles Annual Conference" held on October 23, 2009 at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The report titled "Resilience and Vulnerability: The State of the Nonprofit Sector in Los Angeles 2009" was prepared for the UCLA Center for Civil Society. Howard began working for the Center as an MSW student in 2006, and has continued his research on the nonprofit sector as a doctoral student in the Department of Social Welfare at UCLA. Howard's report can be found at the following website: http://www.spa.ucla.edu/CCS/docs/2009_NONPROFIT_REPORT.pdf

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - BROADWAY

2009 United Way HomeWalk

The Homeless Women and Children Project coordinated SSG's participation in the 2nd United Way HomeWalk, held November 7, 2009. Team *Walkwith SSG* was led by Eric Jones and Isabel Steube Case Managers, and Tonia Johnson, Program Manager; and enthusiastic participation from Project families. The 5K walk raises funds and awareness to prevent and end homelessness in LA County. All money raised from this event is distributed back into the community to re-house families and provide permanent housing. Thank you to all those that contributed and walked in this collaborated effort!

Homeless Connect 2009

HOP-Broadway hosted the Fourth Annual Project Homeless Connect Day on December 10, 2009. The day-long event is a resource fair for homeless families or households at risk of becoming homeless. Participants received preventative health screenings and tests, housing placements, substance abuse and mental health assessments, birth certificates, child support services, on-site legal services, school supplies, food and motel vouchers, clothing and hygiene kits. HOP/ICS hosted 532 participants, 17 community and faith based organizations and 16 Los Angeles County Departments.



Community Participants Entering the Event Area

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - SAN PEDRO

New Program Opens

On November 2, 2009, the Housing & Supportive Services Rapid Re-Housing Program (HASSP) opened its doors. Located at the newly remodeled HOP San Pedro site (5811 S. San Pedro St., LA, CA 90011), HASSP is a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and exists to provide short-term assistance to Los Angeles area homeless households. HASSP currently provides clients one-time financial assistance with their security and utility deposits, first month's rent, assistance with moving cost in the form of a U-Haul truck and assistance with utility arrears (up to three (3) months). For more information about the Program please call (323) 432-4399.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

APAIT Crowns New Quest Winner; Honors Assemblymember Ted Lieu



Karla Ferreira, Miss Quest

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT) crowned **Imperial Court of Los Angeles Hollywood** delegate **Miss Karla Ferreira** as this year's Miss Quest. Women competing represented the finest community-based organizations helping transgenders today including Bienestar, AIDS Project Los Angeles, the LA Gay and Lesbian Center, and Christopher Street West Pride. "The transgender community is one of the most vulnerable populations in the country. They have one of the highest HIV incidence rates, are often victims of hate crimes and domestic violence, and are subject to discrimination in every sector of society." states **Jury Candelario**, APAIT Division Director.

Quest is an advocacy pageant which encourages the development and advancement of transgenders and celebrates the uniqueness and diversity of the transgender community.

Quest also honored **Mario Perez**, Director of the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy with the *Visionary Leadership Award*, and California Assembly Member **Ted Lieu**, 53rd Assembly District, recipient of the *Courage in Leadership Award*. The Assembly Member was honored for his landmark authorship of the Equal ID Act, AB 1185, which would have allowed qualified transgender people born in CA to return to the county of their birth to obtain a new birth certificate reflecting the correct gender, as well as any accompanying name change. Unfortunately, despite passage from the state Legislature, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill.

For more information: 213-553-1845. Or email: frandyg@apaitonline.org or www.apaitonline.org



l-r: Mariko Kahn, A3PCON President; "Courage in Leadership" honoree and 53rd Assembly Member **Ted Lieu**; **Karla Ferreira** 2009 Quest Winner; "Visionary Leadership" honoree Office of AIDS Director **Mario J. Perez**; APAIT Division Director **Jury Candelario** and SSG Executive Director **Herbert Hatanaka**

World AIDS Day

On December 1st, millions of people around the world commemorated the 22nd **World AIDS Day**. Established in 1988, World AIDS Day seeks to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS prevalence and reduce the stigma associated with this pandemic. APAIT commemorated World AIDS Day 2009 with a day of service in which free HIV rapid testing was provided through its recently launched *Know Now* testing program. According to the CDC, one in five individuals living with HIV in the US is unaware of their status. These individuals are at high-risk of transmitting HIV. APAIT was able to test 20 individuals on World AIDS Day, some of whom had never received an HIV test. APAIT provides walk-in testing 5 days a week, and hopes that the success of their World AIDS Day testing event **c o n t i n u e s** throughout the year to reduce HIV/AIDS complacency and **i n c r e a s e s** awareness. For more information on the Know Now program, visit www.apaitonline.org.



OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM

OAP Presents at Conferences

David Yim, Program Director and **Yvonne Sun**, Program Manager for OAP, presented on the topic of innovative approaches to reach and serve the Asian and Pacific Islander older adult community with mental health needs at the *Asian American Mental Health Conference* at Almansor Court in Alhambra on October 16, 2009. Sun also recently presented on the topic of innovative approaches at the *Riverside Older Adult System of Care Conference* on December 2, 2009.

Yim and Sun's presentation focused on the unique service needs of older adults—specifically Asian and Pacific Islander older adults. They discussed methods of outreach, the benefits of collaboration, and the growing need for an integrated approach to address aging, health, and mental health concerns with older adults.



SSG NEWS AND PERSONAL UPDATES

PALS FOR HEALTH/ALAS PARA TU SALUD

Annual Consultant Appreciation and Continuing Education Event

This year's event was held on December 11, 2009 at The California Endowment. The Consultant Appreciation event is designed to celebrate the work that PALS for Health/ALAS para tu Salud have done over the year and to thank our language consultants for their hard work. The continuing education (CE) event, is the 4th and last CE in a series is organized each year to provide our language consultants with an opportunity to learn new information and refresh their knowledge and skills on specific health areas, disease, or issues related to the profession of health care interpreting.



Language Consultants and Staff

Breaking the Silence 1st Annual Conference

PALS for Health's Camila Crespo and Tania Rodriguez helped to organize and participated in the *1st Annual Breaking the Silence Conference* which took place this past November 7th at Charles Drew University. Over 200 Black and Latina women learned about how to take care of themselves in the context of relationships with men. Conference highlights included a panel of bi-sexual men who candidly gave their testimonies and a well known psychologist within the HIV/AIDS community who spoke frankly about protecting one's mind, body and soul to prevent the infection of HIV. The conference was a huge success, Camila and Tania look forward to their work with the Community Advisory Board that made it possible.



New Mileage Reimbursement Rate



On December 3, 2009, the IRS announced a decrease in the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles to 50 cents a mile for all business miles driven effective January 1, 2010.

Please note that effective January 1, 2010, any mileage incurred on SSG business on or after January 1st will be reimbursed at the 50 cents rate.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

1/1	New Year's Day (SSG Holiday)
1/18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SSG Holiday)
1/28	National Fun at Work Day
2/2	Ground Hog Day
2/14	Valentine's Day & Lunar New Year
2/15	Presidents' Day (SSG Holiday)
2/24	Mardi Gras
2/15-21	Random Acts of Kindness Week

mark your
calendars

**Staff & Board
Appreciation Luncheon
July 30, 2010**